United Nations S/2018/102

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 February 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 5 February 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), established by the Security Council in its resolution 2245 (2015).

Following the usual consultations, I would like to inform you of my intention to appoint Lisa Filipetto (Australia) as Head of UNSOS. Ms. Filipetto will succeed Hubert Hudson Price II (United States of America), who was appointed in 2016 and was the first to serve in this capacity. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Price for his dedication and effective leadership of UNSOS.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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United Nations S/2018/103

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 February 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 7 February 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 5 February 2018 (S/2018/102) concerning your intention to appoint Lisa Filipetto (Australia) as Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed therein.

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad Sh. A. **Alotaibi**
President of the Security Council

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United Nations S/2018/104

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 February 2018
English
Original: French

Letter dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 February 2018 from Nasr al-Hariri, general coordinator and head of the negotiation team of the Syrian Negotiation Commission, addressed to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**

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Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On behalf of the Syrian Negotiation Commission, I urgently wish to bring it to your attention that the Syrian regime and Russian forces have launched a ruthless military escalation in Idlib governorate, in northern Syria, and across the country.

The past week has witnessed a major intensification of indiscriminate bombardment, which has included the use of chlorine gas on innocent civilians. Since 1 February, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, at least 42 civilians, including 18 children and four women, have been killed in Idlib. On Sunday, 4 February, the Assad regime and Russia launched at least 50 air strikes in Idlib governorate, killing at least 20 civilians and wounding 45 others in the areas of Ma'saran, Kafr Nubl, Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, Mardikh, Saraqib, Ghadafah and Khan al-Sabil. On 4 and 5 February, Russian warplanes repeatedly struck the Ma'arrat al-Nu'man Central Hospital and the Kafr Nubl Surgical Hospital in addition to a school in Hish village, all of which were put out of action. At least 11 civilians, including three Syria Civil Defence rescue workers, were caught up in a suspected chlorine barrel bomb attack carried out by the Syrian regime in the Sharqi neighbourhood of Saraqib.

The recent escalation in Idlib follows a pattern in which warplanes have intensively shelled civilians and civilian infrastructure across Syria, including in Hama and the besieged eastern Ghutah in the suburbs of Damascus, since the beginning of February. In violation of a ceasefire agreement negotiated by Russia in late January, over 24 civilians were killed by indiscriminate air strikes on the "de-escalation zone" on 5 February alone.

The regime's relentless military strategy once again threatens the prospects of a credible political solution for Syria. While we on the Syria Negotiation Commission continue to work towards progress in the United Nations-led political talks, the regime — aided by its Russian backers — insists on undermining and obstructing that process by wreaking death and devastation across Syria. If Security Council members truly wish to support a credible Syrian political process, they must spare no effort to put an end to the violence on the ground and decisively bring the regime to the negotiating table. That is the only way to stop the regime's brutality, which has marked Syria for far too long.

We therefore call on members of the Security Council to take the following actions:

- Enforce a nationwide ceasefire in Syria with impartial United Nations monitoring and credible enforcement in order to ensure that the war crimes and crimes against humanity come to an end;
- Bring pressure to bear on the Syrian regime and its backers to achieve progress in the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva;
- Hold war criminals accountable by creating the scope for criminal prosecution through the establishment by the General Assembly of a special tribunal for Syria.

We welcome your commitment to reviving the Geneva process and ensuring its primacy as the sole forum for a political solution in Syria. However, it is critical that your words translated into concrete action towards implementing Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and the Geneva Communiqué. It is also crucial that there are

consequences for any violation of the red lines that you have set, such as de-escalation, humanitarian access and constructive engagement in Geneva. The repeated abandonment of conditions and red lines has directly enabled the regime to stonewall and pursue a military solution. The Syrian people cannot afford more bloodshed, nor can they wait any longer for a sustainable political solution. We urgently owe them a breakthrough.

(*Signed*) Nasr **Al-Hariri**
Head, Syrian Negotiation Commission

United Nations S/2018/105

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 February 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of China on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 27 December 2017 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, stating that Mr. Ma Zhaoxu has been appointed representative of China on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, those credentials are in order.

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United Nations S/2018/106

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 February 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 8 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The international coalition led by the United States of America has carried out yet another barbaric attack, one that is consistent with its hostile policy towards the Syrian Arab Republic. At dawn on Thursday, 8 February 2018, coalition forces brutally massacred Syrian popular forces that were confronting the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which continues to maintain a presence under the protection of the forces of the so-called coalition and their proxy militias. The incident took place between the villages of Khusham and Tabiyah, in the north-east countryside of Dayr al-Zawr. American aircraft targeted popular forces that were clashing with ISIL fighters, killing and injuring dozens of the popular forces and causing extensive damage in the area.

This incident has once again exposed beyond a doubt the true purpose of the coalition and Washington's role in supporting the terrorist organization ISIL. A similar incident occurred on 17 September 2016, when the coalition carried out air raids against Syrian Arab Army positions in Jabal Thurdah, near Dayr al-Zawr, enabling ISIL to make progress and occupy the area. According to United Nations reports, the coalition has also deliberately destroyed some 90 per cent of the Syrian city of Raqqah, citing spurious pretexts. Innocent civilians are still buried under the rubble of the destroyed city. The coalition has also mercilessly and unjustifiably targeted Syrian infrastructure in other governorates.

This latest attack is a war crime, a crime against humanity, and an act of direct and overt support for terrorism. It highlights America's squalid scheme to undermine the sovereignty of Syria and the unity of its territory and people. America has used counter-terrorism as an excuse to establish illegal bases in Syrian territory. The American Secretary of State and Secretary of Defence have said that the American Administration wants its forces to remain in Syrian territory, something that flies in the face of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the Security Council. It is now beyond question that their illegal presence is intended to provide support for the terrorist organization ISIL and outlaw militias; establish a safe haven for those groups; hinder any genuine and earnest endeavour to combat terrorism; and prolong the Syrian crisis in order to benefit America, Israel and their proxy terrorists and killers.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to draw the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to these dangerous developments. It urges them to condemn the massacre; hold the international coalition

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responsible for it; compel the coalition to ends its crimes and attacks, which have claimed the lives of thousands of children, women and old people, and destroyed infrastructure and public and private property; and demand that the coalition pay compensation to the families of the victims of this cowardly attack and of similar crimes. The Syrian Government once again insists that this illegal coalition must be dissolved, as its purpose is to protect terrorists and support terrorism. Whatever the cost, Syrian institutions and forces will continue to fulfil their responsibility, in order to prevent the American coalition from achieving its openly terrorist goals. The Government will continue to confront the terrorists of ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations, as well as their sponsors, and to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the unity of its people.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative